



GMP Management Committee Meeting

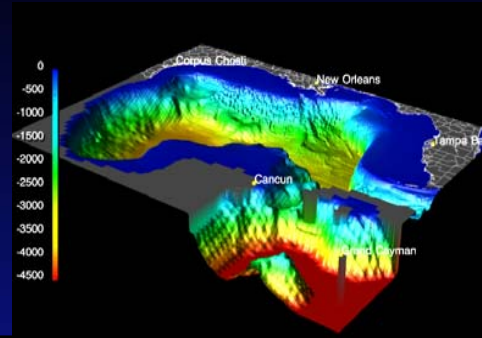
FY 2007 Accomplishments Highlight Report

August 23, 2007



Priorities:

➤ **Restore water and habitat quality in impaired segments in 13 priority coastal areas**



➤ **Assist the Gulf States in protecting public health by providing information concerning illnesses associated with seafood, coastal waters, and harmful algal blooms**



Bacterial Water Quality Standards Status (Coastal Promulgation)*

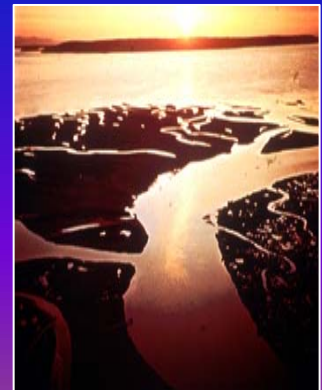
Coastal States with E. coli or Enterococci standards in place
Coastal States in the Process of Adopting E. coli or Enterococci standards
Coastal States with E. coli or Enterococci standards for Beaches but Not for All Coastal Recr. Waters
Coastal States without E. coli or Enterococci standards

➤ **Restore, enhance, or protect important coastal and marine habitats**



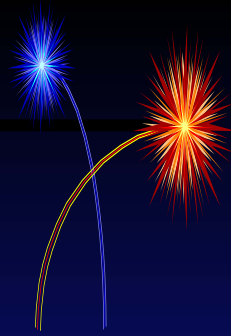
➤ **Support national efforts to reduce nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems**

One Gulf, One Community



➤ **Foster Regional Stewardship and a strong sense of community**

Accomplishments:



Water Quality

- 38 impaired segments delisted from the baseline 303(d) listings in the Gulf of Mexico priority areas.
- Gulf Program developed and initiated a “Surf Your Gulf Watershed” web page at <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/surfgulf/>

Accomplishments:

Water Quality/Public Health



- Continued expansion of Regional Microbial Source Tracking technologies and improved methods development and validation to assist state agencies with ability to define contamination source.
- Workshop held Dec 6-8, 2006, in Biloxi. GMP funding a collaborative partnership among scientists, state and federal agencies to support and increase effective regional interaction to improve the current state of the science knowledge and application of real-time, field-tested methods.

Accomplishments:

Water Quality/Public Health

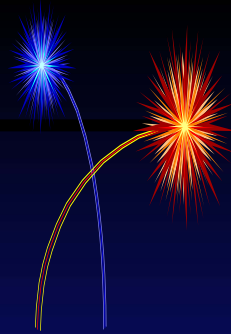


- Funding through EPA's Advanced Monitoring Initiative provided expansion for the binational red tide monitoring system framework (HABSOS) to Veracruz, Mexico. In the fall of 2007, 3 C-Man sensors and 3 brevebuster sensors to be added in Veracruz. HABSOS webpages will be operational in Spanish.
- Sponsored Binational Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Project Partnership Meeting, July 30-31, 2007, at Stennis Space Center and New Orleans to finalize plans for the Pilot Project in Veracruz. A Memorandum of Cooperation between EPA and COFEPRIS is being developed.

Accomplishments:

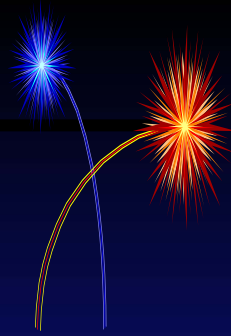
Water Quality/Public Health

- Coordinated successful decentralized wastewater conference sponsored by GMPO, Region 4, & Headquarters, along with numerous State, regional and local entities. With over 100 attendees, conference focused on state of the art technology, successful management and governance models, obstacles to implementation and needed next steps.
- Sponsored a technical tour of several Louisiana projects using wastewater discharges as an enhancement tool for natural wetland systems. Next steps include a similar conference focused on developers.



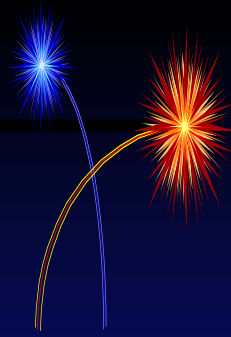
Accomplishments:

Water Quality/Public Health



- Awarded grants for \$50K each in January to the MS coastal counties in support of the Gulf Region Water Utility Act which created County Utility Authorities for water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure planning in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Accomplishments:



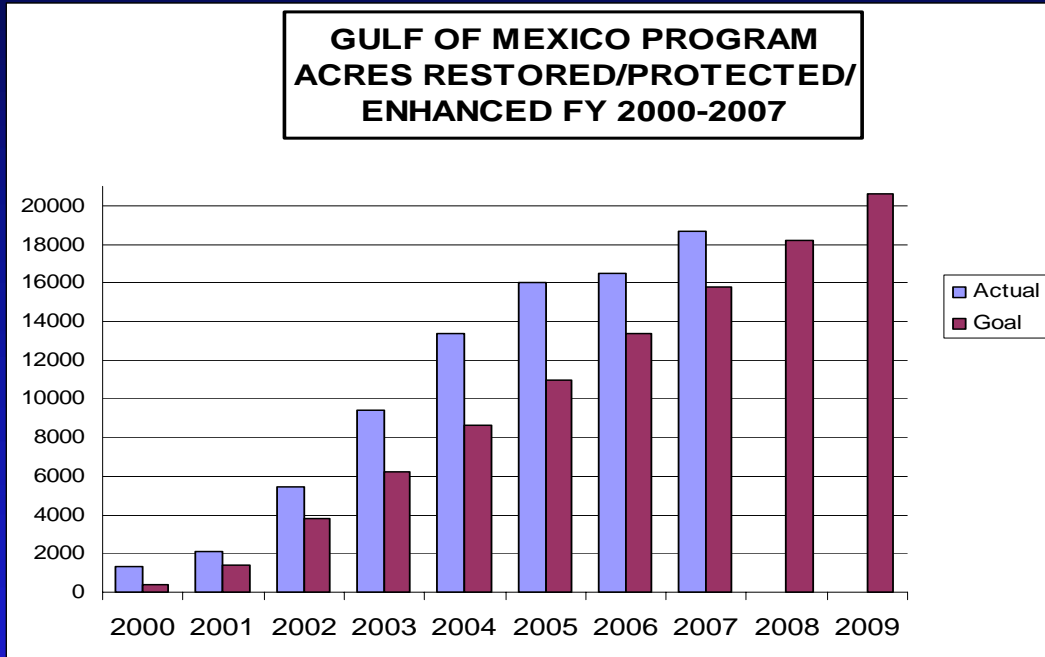
Water Quality/Public Health

- Supported Gulf States efforts to identify and prepare for the implementation of required post-harvest treatment capacity of 50% of all oysters intended for raw, half-shell market during May to Sept. Reduction in illness rate reported in 2007 represents a 47% reduction from the baseline for the core reporting states which include Florida, Texas, and Louisiana. The next goal by 2009 is to achieve a 60% reduction.

Accomplishments:

Habitat Restoration

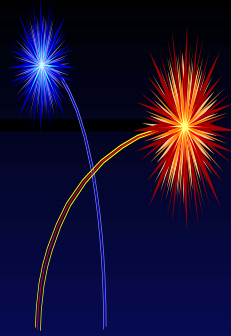
- **2,202 acres restored, enhanced, or protected;**
18,669 achieved toward 2009 goal of 20,000



**“Programs
Integrator”**



Accomplishments:



Habitat Restoration

- As requested by Management Committee, became a member of the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership and serve on the Steering Committee. Participated in stakeholder workshops and in development of the Habitat Plan which is in the review stage. GMP will promote coordination with the Alliance Restoration Team.

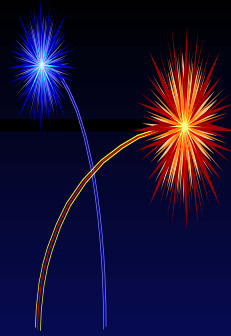
Accomplishments:

Nutrient Reduction



- Completed Phase I of multi-state nutrient characterization of estuarine ecosystems in the Northern Gulf as related to concentrations and loadings. Phase II actions were identified and prioritized. Eight waterbodies selected for additional analysis for nutrient load-response characteristics.

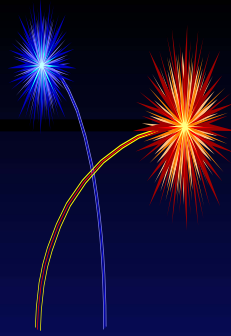
Accomplishments:



Nutrient Reduction

- Nutrient Criteria Conference held in January 2007. Developed compilation of state collected nutrient parameters and State Approaches to the Development of Numeric Nutrient Criteria; modeling inventory in progress; and, compilation of State chlorophyll a testing methodologies. A Monitoring Standardization Workshop is planned for Sept 24-26, 2007, in Spanish Fort, AL.

Accomplishments:



Nutrient Reduction

Assisting efforts in support of Gulf Hypoxia. Identifying top 100 nutrient-contributing watersheds in the MS River Basin. EPA is funding USGS through the process of reworking the SPARROW Model. The revised model should allow for better differentiation and will be used to indicate where in the top 100 Watersheds the major sources of nitrogen and phosphorus are located and where to target reduction efforts.

Accomplishments:

Environmental Education



- Coastal America Principals unanimously approved GMP's recommendation to designate Veracruz Aquarium as 1st International Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center.
- Ceremony held on June 14th in Veracruz. Governor of Veracruz sponsored and attended the ceremony.
- The Principals also unanimously approved GMP's recommendation for designation of the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center in Ocean Springs, MS, which will be designated in October 2007.

Accomplishments:

Environmental Education

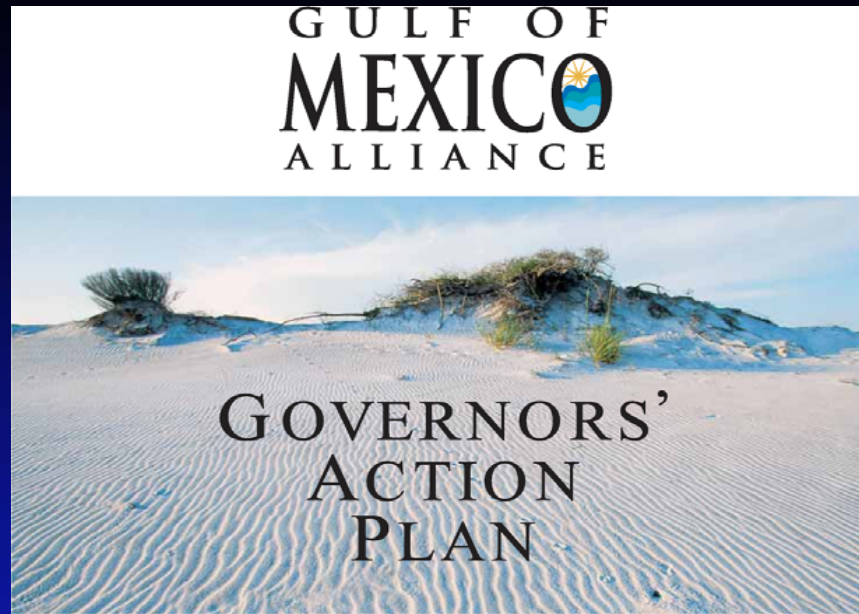
- 2006 Gulf Guardian Awards – presented at Restore America's Estuaries Conference in New Orleans, December 2006. Presented 2nd Binational Award.
- News releases are being produced for all projects to be distributed and run region-wide.



Accomplishments:



- GMP Director co-lead for Federal Workgroup assisting Gulf States in identification and implementation of Governors' Action Plan. For Third Quarter Report, progress reported toward number of near-term actions, with the leverage of the Federal Workgroup partnership, at 92% completed or on track.
- GMP GMP Staff serve as Team co-Leads for Alliance Workgroups and as project officers for projects funded to support Alliance activities. GMP provides administrative support to the Alliance; held Implementation Integration Workshop in St. Petersburg, FL, in July 2007.



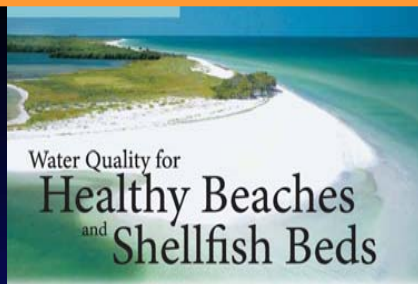
The Gulf Program, as a stimulus for the implementation of the Governors' Action Plan, redirected \$1M of FY06 funding along with capacity of \$2M of FY07 funding through a competitive process toward the 73 activities addressed by the Gulf States in the Plan.



RFP deadline was July 31, 2006.

Received 41 proposals.

13 proposals selected totaling \$1.9M.



WQ-1:

Improve harmful algal bloom detection and forecasting in the U.S. and Mexican Gulf States

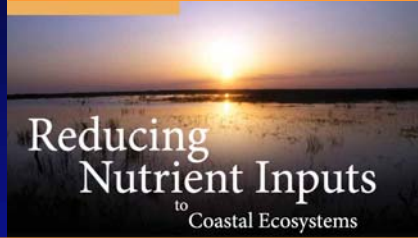
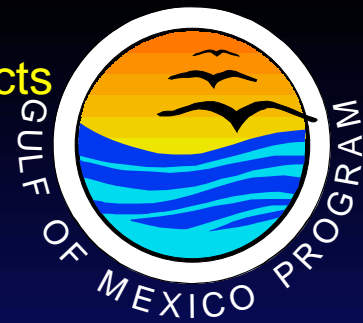
WQ-2:

Improve beach water quality Management

WQ-3:

Improve government efficiency in water quality Monitoring

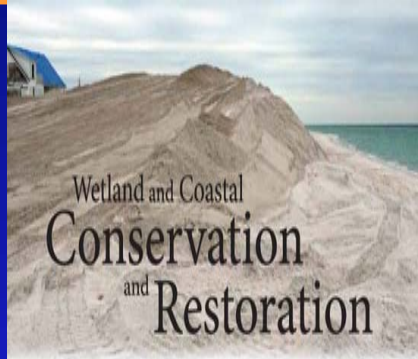
3 Projects



N-1:

Increase regional coordination in the development of nutrient criteria

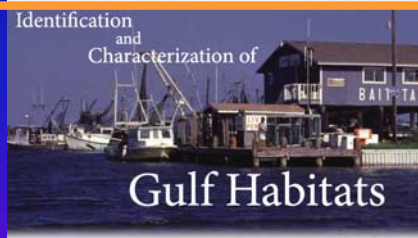
1 Project



R-1:

Streamline coastal restoration and conservation Efforts

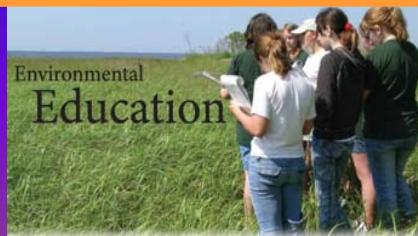
2 Projects



ID-1:

Create and provide access to interactive habitat maps for priority Gulf of Mexico habitats

2 Projects



ED-1:

Galvanize local communities to protect the Gulf of Mexico through targeted education

ED-2:

Conduct a public awareness campaign for the Gulf of Mexico

5 Projects



One Gulf, One Community!



Questions?